

March 12, 1996

To: Bernie Ylkanen, Field Director, Marquette

From: Lee Evison, Inventory & Planning Specialist, Escanaba

Subject: Little Presque Isle Amendment to the ERSF Plan

Attached for your approval is the Little Presque Isle Amendment as developed by the LPI Committee and approved by the ERSF Interdisciplinary Team. As you know, this plan has been under discussion and development for quite some time. It would be desirable to report to the LPI Committee that the plan has been approved.

cc: Dennis Nezich
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Attachment

I BROAD STATEMENTS

The Little Presque Isle Property is a forested 3,040 acre tract located five miles northwest of Marquette and approximately an eight hour drive from Lansing. The parcel includes 21,500 feet of Lake Superior Shoreline, an 8.6 -acre offshore island, a 64-acre inland lake, two stream systems, and a variety of land forms that include wetlands, rolling wooded terrain, and uplands with rocky outcrops.

Marquette County Road 550 (C. R. 550), which divides the tract, forms a significant geographical and environmental boundary. The areas east and west of C.R. 550 have different geographical features and patterns of use. The following statements assist in defining a broad vision for the tract.

1. The land areas on the east and west sides of C.R. 550 will be considered separate but linked use areas. Activities or uses, which are prohibited in one area, may be considered for the other area and may be permitted, if feasible, financially reasonable and consistent with the overall plan for the other area.
2. DNR will initiate the process to designate the island off Little Presque Isle point as a Wilderness Area.
3. DNR will initiate the process to designate most of the area between C.R. 550 and the shoreline as a Natural Area. A certain portion of this area, located at and around the LPI point and Wetmore Landing day use areas, along with existing parking lots and access roads, will be excluded from Natural Area Designation (see attached map). This excluded area will be managed as "Quiet Area" as outlined in the following section IX part 7.

II CAMPING

1. Neither motorized drive-in nor walk-in camping will be allowed between C.R. 550 and the Lake Superior Shoreline, with the matter of walk-in camping in this area to be reviewed in five years.
2. Camping opportunities will be provided west of C.R. 550 as follows:

A rustic cabin concept will be implemented at LPI. The LPIAC recommended 2 to 3 clusters, limited to 6 to 9 cabins. However, due to difficulty in locating a drinking water source on some of the most desirable sites on the tract, the following is planned for construction:

- One cluster of 3 cabins having shared toilet and water well on the Harlow lake Peninsula;
- One cluster of 3 cabins having shared toilet and water well north of Harlow Creek and west of C.R. 550;

- One cluster of 2 cabins on the south shore of Harlow lake with shared toilet, but no water well;
- One isolated cabin south of Clark's gravel pit along the ski trail with a toilet, but without a water well;
- A separate host cabin as recommended in Section IX, Tract Maintenance and Control, will also be constructed and is proposed to be located on the Harlow lake peninsula.

Dispersed camping west of C.R. 550 will be allowed in compliance with DNR State land Use Rules.

Group camping opportunities will be explored within the tract.

3. The following qualities are envisioned for cabin sites.

Low-density with visual privacy; quiet, secure, safe and maintained sites.

Sites shall be equipped with picnic tables and all but one cabin shall be equipped in accordance with ADA provisions. In-ground fire rings with swing grills shall be provided at all designated cabin sites. Wells and toilets shall be provided for cabin clusters, only toilets will be provided for the isolated individual cabins. Electricity shall not be provided.

4. The following potential campsites are among those considered within the tract (not listed in priority order):

In the vicinity of Clark's gravel pit, Harlow Lake, Harlow Creek, and areas with a view of Harlow Lake.

5. Other issues:

Camping season for cabins will be defined by seasonal conditions, which permit proper maintenance and enforcement.

The campground (cabin) host(s) program will be considered.

III BOATING AND BOAT LAUNCH SITES

1. A small boat launch on Harlow lake is recommended with the qualification that the launch should not be located near cabin sites.
2. Boating on Harlow lake will be limited to non-motorized craft and craft with electric motors observing a no-wake speed.

IV ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

1. Make educational materials and opportunities available explaining timber management practices (See IX (6))
2. Leave timber and other vegetation uncut on the island off little Presque Isle point.
3. Leave timber and other vegetation uncut in the area between C.R. 550 and the lakeshore, except to reduce safety risks.
4. Allow fallen trees to remain in place between C.R. 550 and the lakeshore, except when falls create safety risks. Essentially, this will be done when fallen trees pose a safety risk which effects management or use of the day use facilities.
5. Identify potential old growth stands throughout the tract. Public input and input from resource professionals both within and outside the Department will be considered in the process of identifying old growth stands.
6. Permit timber harvesting in the area west of C.R. 550 under the following conditions:

No cutting or harvesting should be allowed in or on the following areas:

- i. Identified old growth stands.
- ii. Appropriate buffer zones along roads, trails, lakes, streams and near actual or potential campsites. Allowance is made for some selective harvesting for educational and/or interpretive purposes in these areas.
- iii. Slopes where soil erosion or stream sedimentation would occur.

Timber management decisions should consider visual impact, as well as impacts on both plant and animal life, including non-game species.

Favor growth of long-lived species in management plans and decisions.

Harvest all timber during December, January and February.

Leave slash in place.

Firewood permits may be available under limited circumstances.

7. Extinguish forest fires on the tract, as required under current policy, but do not permit salvage cuts after fires.
8. Prescribed fire may be considered as a tool to meet ecosystem objectives throughout the tract.

9. Favor natural regeneration, when possible; plant indigenous species, if necessary, to prevent erosion.
10. Encourage scientific studies of ecosystem processes, as long as the studies do not interfere with other activities on the tract.
11. Consider the effects of timber management decisions on adjacent land and landowners.

V DAY USE FACILITIES

1. A day use area will be developed near Harlow Lake to include picnic tables and stand up grills.
2. A limited number of picnic tables and rustic benches will be provided at the Little Presque Isle point area, and a toilet will be constructed adjacent to the present parking lot. No cooking grills be provided at this site, with a review of this issue in five years.
3. The Wetmore Landing and Freeman Landing areas will be left as they are at present.
4. When toilets are constructed within the tract, these facilities will be barrier-free. Wells will be maintained at day use areas.
5. Trash containers may be provided in day use areas west of C.R. 550. Placement of trash containers is discouraged in areas between C.R. 550 and the lakeshore. Signs to educate the public on the "Carry in-carry out" philosophy as recommended.
6. A barrier-free fishing platform will be constructed on the north shore of Harlow Lake. A low visibility, rustic design utilizing wood construction is recommended.

SEE ALSO Section VIII: TRAILS and Section IX: TRACT MAINTENANCE AND CONTROL for other recommendations affecting day use by visitors to the tract, including quiet rules, hours of operation, regulation of pets, fires, alcohol use, provision and use of foot and other trails.

VI HUNTING AND TRAPPING

1. Hunting and possession of firearms will be allowed, under all applicable DNR Regulations, in the Little Presque Isle tract. Restrictions on hunting and possession of firearms will be considered in the future based on documented incidents.
2. Trapping will be allowed in the LPI tract under all applicable DNR regulations.
3. Target shooting, whether firearm or archery, will not be allowed on the LPI tract.

VII VEHICLE ACCESS AND CONTROL

1. Retain the present parking lots and access roads to the Wetmore Landing area and the Little Presque Isle point area as they are now located.
2. Consider placement of a night or seasonal gate on the road to LPI point, near C.R. 550, at such time as its operation would be feasible.
3. Construct an additional parking lot adjacent to the present access road to LPI point near its junction with C.R. 550.
4. Request the Marquette County Road Commission to evaluate present speed limits and traffic signs from Sugar Loaf parking lot to an area west of the Harlow Creek bridge on C.R. 550.
5. Prohibit the operation of wheeled, motorized vehicles except on roads and parking lots considered open for their use within the LPI tract. See the attached map for roads to be closed by Director's Order.

VIII TRAILS

1. To promote safety:

A trail from the campsites west of C.R. 550 to a point of safe crossing to the east of C.R. 550

2. To restore and protect vegetation and control erosion:

Construct a low impact, barrier-free trail from the parking lot to the tree line above the beach at Little Presque Isle Point. In addition, construct a minimum number of low impact trails, stairs, etc., leading from the parking lot to the beach to stabilize deteriorating areas.

At Wetmore Landing, construct a low-impact, barrier-free trail from the parking lot to the tree line above the beach.

At LPI point construct a barrier free pathway loop between the parking lot and the point itself.

3. To provide a diversity of trail user opportunities:

Allow snowmobiles on designated snowmobile trails.

Permit mountain bikes on county roads, the abandoned railroad grade, any two-track trail roads not blocked to motor-vehicle use, and any designated mountain bike trail.

Construct the proposed Song Bird Trail, planned for the north side of Harlow Creek, east of C.R. 550.

IX TRACT MAINTENANCE AND CONTROL

1. LPI Tract Maintenance:

Explore the use of a donation pipe to help pay for the costs of protecting and maintaining the area.

Encourage citizens' groups to take an active role in maintenance through programs, including but not limited to the "Adopt-a-Forest" program.

2. Environmental Protection:

Control damage to soil surface structures from foot traffic, past A TV and other vehicle use.

Repair and control erosion to shoreline banks caused by foot traffic and other human activities.

Designate certain forest roads for closure from use by motorized vehicles as indicated on the attached map.

3. Litter Control:

Prohibit glass containers throughout the tract except in designated camping areas.

4. Campfires:

Permit campfires in fire rings at designated cabin sites west of C.R. 550 and in stand-up grills at day use areas west of C.R. 550.

Prohibit open campfires between C.R. 550 and the shoreline and west of C.R. 550 except in designated areas.

Self-contained cooking units are permitted on the entire area. Charcoal grills are not permitted east of C.R. 550.

5. Enforcement Tools and Techniques:

Prohibit possession and consumption of alcohol east of C.R. 550.

As needed, regulate the use of alcohol west of C.R. 550 to prevent abuse and unnecessary noise.

Recruit a tract site host(s) to provide information and maintain and administrative presence.

Consider providing a small rustic cabin for the host(s) on a site west of C.R. 550 to be chosen by the DNR.

6. Education and Rules:

Inform visitors of applicable rules through pamphlets and by posting rustic signs in appropriate locations.

1. Display land use rules highlighting hours of use.

Educate visitors about significant features and responsible use by posting appropriate rustic signs and publishing informational pamphlets.

1. Post signs explaining both personal responsibility for maintaining area cleanliness and reasons for not supplying trash containers.

Allow a committee to review educational signs to ensure a balanced explanation of timber and other management techniques; signs should include both positive and negative factors where applicable.

7. Quiet Use and Enjoyment:

Keep pets leashed in the frequently used areas near Harlow Lake and in the immediate vicinity and beaches of Wetmore Landing and Little Presque Isle point.

Apply campground quiet rules (R299.332(2)(g)) to the frequently used "quiet areas" in the immediate vicinity of Wetmore Landing and Little Presque Isle point.

**DIRECTOR ORDERS / PROPOSALS REQUIRED
TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Proposal for Wilderness Area designation for Little Presque Isle island.
2. Proposal for Natural Area designation for the area between C.R. 550 and Lake Superior, except for "Quiet Area" as outlined on attached map.
3. Director's Orders as follows:

No gasoline powered motors allowed on Harlow Lake and a no wake speed must be observed (electric motors).

Target shooting, with gun or bows, is prohibited on entire tract.

Designate certain forest roads within the LPI tract to be closed from use by wheeled, motorized vehicles. See the attached map.

Open fires are prohibited east of C.R. 550. Open fires are prohibited west of C.R. 550 except in designated fire rings and grills in campsites and day use areas. Self contained cooking units are allowed.

Glass containers are prohibited except in designated camping areas. -Possession and consumption of alcohol is prohibited east of C.R. 550. ., -State Forest campground quiet rules (R299.332(2)(g)) to apply to the frequently used areas in the immediate vicinity of Wetmore Landing and Little Presque Isle Point (within Quiet Area).

Pets must be leashed when within designated quiet and day use areas. -Tent and backcountry camping is prohibited within 300 feet of rustic cabins. -Mountain bikes are allowed only on designated trails.

Parking and/or speed limit regulations as needed in future